

**PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE (AIR)
MID-CYCLE SUBCOMMITTEE****Conference Call Summary
Tuesday, October 30, 2007
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time****DFO Welcome and Comments**

Mr. Lawrence Martin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Office of Research and Development (ORD), Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Mr. Lawrence Martin, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Particulate Matter and Ozone (Air) Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He welcomed the members to the call and reviewed the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) procedures that are required for all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Subcommittee meetings. As the DFO for the Subcommittee, Mr. Martin serves as the liaison between the Subcommittee, the public, and EPA and ensures that all FACA requirements are met.

A contractor, Beverly Campbell from SCG, is taking notes to capture the discussion, and the summary will be made available to the public after certification by the Subcommittee Chair. The Chair must certify the summary within 90 days of the call. The summary then will be posted on the BOSC Web Site (<http://www.epa.gov/osp/bosc>). An electronic docket has been established for this Subcommittee via the federal docket management system (<http://www.regulations.gov>; Docket ID EPA-HQ-ORD-2007-0700).

All meetings and conference calls involving substantive issues, whether in person, by phone, or by e-mail, that include one-half or more of the Subcommittee members must be open to the public and a notice must be placed in the *Federal Register* at least 15 calendar days prior to the call or meeting. All documents must be made public as well. No requests for public comment were submitted prior to the call, but the agenda allows time for public comment at 1:50 p.m. Mr. Martin will call for public comments at that time, and each comment must be limited to 3 minutes.

The purpose of this conference call is for the members to discuss and provide comments on the draft report that was prepared following the face-to-face meeting that was held September 18, 2007, in Washington, DC. All members should have received the draft report prior to this call. In closing his DFO remarks, Mr. Martin stated that it has been his pleasure to work with the Subcommittee on this review.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Rogene Henderson, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Rogene Henderson, Chair of the Subcommittee, explained that she would provide an overview of the report and then go through the response to each question. She confirmed that everyone had received the draft report. Dr. Henderson stated that she had asked Mr. Martin to draft an introduction for the report and it is included in this draft as the summary section. She realized last evening that the summary section

was incomplete so she prepared a draft that was distributed to the members late last night. Dr. Henderson noted that Dr. Ping's section of the report had not been formatted because it was received later than the other sections.

Dr. Henderson mentioned that there are only a few recommendations in the report because the Subcommittee was quite satisfied with the progress of the program. She asked if anyone thought it necessary to develop a separate list of recommendations for the summary section. Drs. Croes, Seigneur, and Demerjian did not think a list of recommendations was needed.

Dr. Henderson asked if there were any comments on page 3, which is the introduction that was prepared by Mr. Martin. No comments were offered. Dr. Henderson then went through the responses to each of the charge questions.

Responses to the Charge Questions

Dr. Rogene Henderson, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Seigneur prepared the response to Charge Question #1. Dr. Henderson said that she did not have any comments on this response, but asked for comments from the other members.

Referring to the second paragraph of the response, Dr. Croes asked if the report should specify the frequency of the "periodic formalized process for assessing primary stakeholders' perceptions of and satisfaction with [the program's] role in the source-to-health-outcome process." For example, should we recommend that the customer survey be issued every 2 or 3 years? Dr. Henderson noted that the frequency was not specified in the 2005 program review. Dr. Croes asked if the program has plans to conduct another survey. Dr. Costa responded that there are plans to change some of the measures, including the survey. One option being considered by the program is to examine how the customers (program offices) are citing the program's research in their products. Whatever the final measures selected, the information will be collected on a regular basis. Dr. Croes indicated that Dr. Costa's reply satisfied his concern and he did not think it was necessary to change the response.

The response to Charge Question #2 was prepared by Dr. Ping, who was not able to participate in this call. Dr. Henderson reminded the members that Dr. Ping was enthusiastic about the program, particularly the bibliometric analysis, which she rated as exceptional. Dr. Henderson pointed out that Dr. Ping included the term "Exceptional" in section B of her response (page 6). Because the Subcommittee was to assign a single rating for the overall program, which the members agreed was to be "Exceeds Expectations," Dr. Henderson asked if the term in this section should be deleted or reworded to avoid confusion. Dr. Croes did not think the term should be used in this section; he suggested substituting another word such as "outstanding" to avoid any confusion. The members agreed with Dr. Croes' suggestion.

Dr. Henderson asked if there were any additional comments on this response. Dr. Croes said he thought the three examples provided in the second bullet on page 7 diluted the success of the program because so much more has been accomplished. Dr. Henderson said she liked the examples and suggested stating that these are a few examples among many program accomplishments. Dr. Demerjian said he thought they should be deleted. Because Dr. Henderson did not feel strongly about retaining the examples, she agreed that they should be deleted. There were no additional comments on the response to this charge question.

Dr. Croes prepared the response to Charge Question #3. Dr. Henderson suggested inserting a paragraph break on the seventh line of the first paragraph following the words “other air quality management activities.” She stated that it seems logical to start the BOSC’s findings in a new paragraph, given that the preceding paragraph describes the purpose of the program and how it supports the Clear Air Act. Dr. Croes agreed.

Dr. Signeur thought the word “robust” should be deleted from the third line of the paragraph beginning with “EPA is also responsible for development” on page 9 of the report. He explained that he did not think that robust models for PM_{2.5} have been developed yet. Dr. Croes agreed with the suggested deletion.

Dr. Croes mentioned that there is repetitive text on the ozone program in several of the responses. Should that text be consolidated to avoid redundancy? After quickly reviewing the different sections, Dr. Henderson said she thought they all should remain because they are slightly different. The other members agreed and concurred with this decision.

The response to Charge Question #4 was prepared by Dr. Demerjian. Several members noted the use of the words “I believe they have addressed” in the last paragraph of this response (page 11). Dr. Demerjian suggested that the sentence be reworded as follows: “The BOSC Subcommittee concluded that the program has addressed the concerns...” The other members agreed with this revised wording.

A member suggested inserting the parenthetical phrase “(except in southern latitudes)” following the words “limited secondary PM photo-production” in the second paragraph of the response on page 10.

Dr. Henderson drafted the response to Charge Question #5. She included paragraphs about the client satisfaction survey and the use of external review bodies. She acknowledged that the response did not include any suggestions for improving performance measures. Dr. Henderson asked if the other members had anything to add to this section. Dr. Demerjian stated that ORD is trying to figure out ways to evaluate some of the fundamental processes in the models and how this information would translate to outcomes. ORD has data on the changes in precursor concentrations over the past 10 years. These data could be plugged into the models and ORD could determine if the models correctly predict the incremental changes in ozone. If the predictions are not accurate, ORD could determine why. Dr. Demerjian acknowledged that this would require a great deal of work. He mentioned that EPA is doing such tests with the acid rain program, but acknowledged that doing this for the PM Program is more difficult.

Dr. Henderson commented that she liked the program’s approach of identifying the first step as source to air quality rather than taking the giant step from source to outcomes. Dr. Demerjian said that the program could take a technological approach, decreasing emissions as much as possible because there is a known relationship between source and outcomes. Dr. Costa stated that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is asking ORD to measure the effectiveness of the research program in decreasing the public health risk. ORD is using a hierarchy of sources as they relate to human health risk. Did the program achieve a 30 percent reduction of the uncertainty in relating sources to health outcomes? ORD is moving this measure back into the development role, pending the results of the BOSC mid-cycle review. Should the program keep this measure? OMB wants the program to be able to measure some benefit (outcome) for every dollar invested in the program. OMB also wants to know how much the uncertainty has been reduced. Dr. Demerjian commented that ORD should be able to make the argument that the more it knows about the air quality to health outcome relationship the better the Agency can reduce the risk. The program should try to understand what component of PM is most toxic and its relationship to health outcomes. Dr. Henderson thought that suggestion was covered in the second to the last paragraph in the response to this charge question (page 13). Dr. Demerjian agreed that the paragraph noted by Dr. Henderson captured his comments.

Dr. Henderson said she was impressed with the program's decision to break the source to health outcomes paradigm into two steps, with air quality as the intermediate step. Dr. Costa stated that it is the most reasonable way to demonstrate the program's progress—there are models for predicting source to air quality and that information will feed into the understanding and interpretation of air quality to health outcomes. He confirmed that there are tools to measure source to air quality progress.

Dr. Henderson asked if there were any additional comments on the response to Charge Question #5 and there were none.

Charge Question #6 was prepared by Dr. Henderson. As was agreed by the members at the September meeting, the response includes the rating of "Exceeds Expectations" for the program's progress since the 2005 program review. The section also notes that the bibliometric analysis was considered exceptional by the Subcommittee. It mentions the expansion of the program to include air toxics and the three planned hypothesis-driven studies to help develop metrics of outcomes of the research. The last sentence of the response simply defines the "Exceeds Expectations" rating using the words of the rating tool.

Dr. Henderson asked if there were any comments on this section. Dr. Signeur said it looked fine to him. Dr. Croes suggested highlighting the National Research Council (NRC) reports and the air quality management PM research priorities. He also thought the response should mention the program's collaboration with the Health Effects Institute, Coordinating Research Council, NARSTO, and others. Dr. Henderson asked Dr. Croes to send her the wording he would like added to this section and Dr. Croes agreed to do so.

Path Forward to Finalize the Report

Dr. Rogene Henderson, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Henderson asked the members if they had reviewed the draft summary that she prepared last evening. The members indicated that they had reviewed it and had no changes. Because the changes to the report were minor, Dr. Henderson thought it would be possible to submit the revised report to Mr. Martin very quickly. The report then will be submitted to the BOSC Executive Committee for review and approval. Mr. Martin stated that the contractor will format and edit the report before it is submitted to the Executive Committee for review at the January meeting.

Dr. Henderson thanked the Subcommittee members for their great work on the report. She also commended the Air Program staff members for their tremendous efforts in supporting this review. Dr. Costa thanked the Subcommittee for their input, stating that it was very much appreciated by ORD.

Public Comments

Mr. Lawrence Martin, EPA/ ORD, Subcommittee DFO

At 1:50 p.m., Mr. Martin called for public comments. Mr. Adam Sarvana from Inside EPA indicated that he had a question for Dr. Costa concerning the measure to achieve a 30 percent reduction in uncertainty. Mr. Martin said Mr. Sarvana's question was not appropriate for this call and that it would be best if he contacted Dr. Costa following the call.

Mr. Martin thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the call at 1:58 p.m.

Action Items

- ◇ Dr. Croes will send Dr. Henderson a sentence or two that acknowledges the program's collaboration with others for insertion into the response to Charge Question #6.

- ✧ Dr. Henderson will insert the summary she drafted into the revised report.
- ✧ Dr. Henderson will revise the report to incorporate the changes discussed during this call. She will send the revised report to Mr. Martin.

B.O.S.C

BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS

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Inside EPA



Teleconference Agenda

AIR RESEARCH MID-CYCLE REVIEW MEETING

Conference Call 866.299.3188, code is 2025646497#

Tuesday, October. 30, 2007

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:05 p.m.	DFO Welcome and Comment	Mr. Lawrence Martin (EPA)
1:05 – 1:10 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Rogene Henderson Chair, Air Mid-Cycle Subcommittee
1:10 – 1:50 p.m.	- Review Outstanding Action Items - Discuss Draft Responses to the Charge Questions - Finalize the Subcommittee's Report	Dr. Rogene Henderson Chair, Air Mid-Cycle Subcommittee
1:50 – 2:00 p.m.	Public Comment	Public
2:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Dr. Rogene Henderson Chair, Air Mid-Cycle Subcommittee